

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 18, line 27, as follows:

As represented in the enclosed Figure 4, the Inventors have identified upon the genomic DNA (SEQ ID NO: 10) 5 exons and 5 introns. By RT-PCR (using primers 5'-gggtatgggactagctggcg-3' and 5'-ctggccaacattccaattgcag-3') and according to the genomic sequence, 4 different cDNAs corresponding to the transcription of the said genomic DNA have been identified in human lung and in human brain. A first cDNA of 736 bp corresponds to the cDNA encoding the complete amino acid sequence of the B18 protein according to the invention. However, 3 other cDNAs of 601, 604, and 469 bp were also identified, and comprise specific splicings of one of more exons.

Please amend page 20, line 25 as follows:

- high bone mass syndrome (MIM No. 601884),

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claims:

5. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) An isolated or purified polynucleotide consisting essentially of SEQ ID NO: 1 or its complementary strand.

14. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and the nucleotide sequence of claim 5 or a peptide encoded by said nucleotide sequence.

16. (TWICE AMENDED) A cell transformed by the vector according to claim 9.

Please add the following claims:

28. (NEW) A purified antibody or an active portion of said antibody that specifically binds a polypeptide encoded by the nucleotide sequence of claim 5.

29. (NEW) A diagnostic device comprising a polypeptide encoded by the nucleotide sequence of claim 5.

30. (NEW) A diagnostic device comprising an antibody according to claim 28.

31. (NEW) The purified antibody of claim 28, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.